Deuteronomy 1:6-7a  "When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, ‘You have stayed at this mountain long enough. It is time to break camp and move on.’" (NLT)

1. **Our Vision**

Matthew 22:34-40  "When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.” (GNB)

1 Corinthians 13:4b-6b  "Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel..." (The Message)

1 Corinthians 13:7c-8c  "Love always looks for the best, never looks back but keeps going to the end. Love never dies.” (The Message)

b) **Accept** People As They Are Today

1 Corinthians 13:4b  "Love cares more for others than for self....” (The Message)

Romans 5:8  "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NKJV)

John 15:12  "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (NKJV)

c) **Serve** People As They Are Today

1 Corinthians 13:7c-8c  "Love never dies.” (The Message)

Luke 6:35  “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.” (NLT)

Matthew 20:28  "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.” (NKJV)

The big idea: Make a commitment to love people more!
Deuteronomy 1:6-7a  "When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, ‘You have stayed at this mountain long enough. It is time to break camp and move on.’" (NLT)
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ARE WE THERE YET?!
part three
TOUGH TIMES

wednesdays in january @ 7:00pm

ARE WE THERE YET?!

Our Vision A: Loving God!

Our Vision B: Loving People!

Our Identity: A Place Of Endless Possibilities!
Series Review:

Part One: Our Identity - A Place of Endless Possibilities

Part Two: Our Vision – Loving God!

1. Our Vision
Vision is defined as “what you see or what you want to see.”

Matthew 22:34-38  
34“When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, 35 and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. 36 ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ 37 Jesus answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and the most important commandment.’ (cont’d)
39 The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ 40 The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.” (GNB)

Jesus said the most important thing is to love God and the second most important thing is to love people.

Shell Osbon:

“It really does take the love of God to love some folks!”
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a  
4“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head,  
5doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle,  
6doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, 
7puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back but keeps going to the end.  
8Love never dies.” (The Message)

These verses serve as a template for how we should love others and how our love should be expressed.
a) **Love** People As They Are Today

1 Corinthians 13:4b “Love cares more for others than for self....” (The Message)

One of the best ways to show someone that your life has been changed is by loving them just as they are today.

Romans 5:8 “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NKJV)

God didn’t wait for us to be “good enough” for Him to love us but He loved us while we were still sinners.
John 15:12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (NKJV)

Loving people as they are today is commanded because it is the exact way that Jesus loves us.
1 John 4:19 “We love each other as a result of God loving us first.” (NLT)

You can love people as they are today only because God loves you as you are today.

Dale Bronner:
“Love is a commitment that you make which is expressed through time and money. If you are committed to loving someone, you will spend time with them and you will spend money on them.”
b) **Accept** People As They Are Today

1 Corinthians 13:4b-6b  

4b “Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head,  ⁵ doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle,  ⁶ doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel…”  
(The Message)

Accepting people as they are means that you’re OK with who they are even if who they are isn’t like who you are in some ways.

Ephesians 1:4 “Long ago, even before He made the world, God chose us to be His very own through what Christ would do for us; He decided then to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault - we who stand before Him covered with His love.”  
(LB)

God accepts you just as you are today but He loves you too much to leave you as you are today!
If you want someone who never criticizes you, doesn’t care how you look, acts as though everything you say is worth hearing, never complains and loves you unconditionally...get a dog!

Shell Osbon: “You can’t change anybody but you and you can’t control anybody but you!”
c) **Serve** People As They Are Today

1 Corinthians 13:7c-8 7c“Love always looks for the best, never looks back but keeps going to the end. 8Love never dies.” (The Message)

Serving others will require you to look for the best in them no matter what may happen or else you will stop serving them.

Shell Osbon:
“Love will lead you to do things that you wouldn’t normally do for people that you wouldn’t normally do things for.”
Luke 6:35  “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.”  (NLT)

God asks you to serve people as they are today and He will bless you for doing so!

Martin Luther King, Jr:
“Love is the only thing that can change an enemy into a friend.”
Matthew 20:28 “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.” (NKJV)

Jesus was willing to serve us even though we didn’t deserve it.

the big idea

Make a commitment to love people more!
we’re all about…

Loving God!
Loving People!
Loving Life!

ARE WE THERE YET?!
part three